



## Our Lady Immaculate & St Joseph Catholic Church

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Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Risley

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026 Second Sunday of Easter (A)



*'Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'*

## **Pope Leo XVI Easter Message - Urbi et Orbi**

Christ is risen! Happy Easter!

For centuries, the Church has joyfully sung of the event that is the origin and foundation of her faith: “Yes, Christ my hope is arisen / Christ indeed from death is risen / Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning” (Easter Sequence).

Easter is the victory of life over death, of light over darkness, of love over hatred. It is a victory that came at a very high price: Christ, the Son of the living God (cf. Mt 16:16), had to die — and die on a cross — after suffering an unjust condemnation, being mocked and tortured, and shedding all his blood. As the true immolated Lamb, he took upon himself the sin of the world (cf. Jn 1:29; 1 Pet 1:18–19) and thus freed us all — and with us, all creation — from the dominion of evil.

But how was Jesus able to be victorious? What is the strength with which he defeated once and for all the ancient adversary, the prince of this world (cf. Jn 12:31)? What is the power with which he rose from the dead, not returning to his former life, but entering into eternal life and thus opening in his own flesh the passage from this world to the Father?

This strength, this power, is God himself for he is Love who creates and generates, Love who is faithful to the end and Love who forgives and redeems.

Christ, our “victorious King,” fought and won his battle through trusting abandonment to the Father’s will, to his plan of salvation (cf. Mt 26:42).

Thus he walked the path of dialogue to the very end, not in words but in deeds: to find us who were lost, he became flesh; to free us who were slaves, he became a slave; to give life to us mortals, he allowed himself to be killed on the cross.

The power with which Christ rose is entirely nonviolent. It is like that of a grain of wheat which, having rotted in the earth, grows, breaks through the clods, sprouts, and becomes a golden ear of wheat. It is even more like that of a human heart which, wounded by an offense, rejects the instinct for revenge and, filled with compassion, prays for the one who has committed the offense.

Brothers and sisters, this is the true strength that brings peace to humanity, because it fosters respectful relationships at every level: among individuals, families, social groups, and nations. It does not seek private interests, but the common good; it does not seek to impose its own plan, but to help design and carry out a plan together with others.

On this day of celebration, let us abandon every desire for conflict, domination, and power, and implore the Lord to grant his peace to a world ravaged by wars and marked by a hatred and indifference that make us feel powerless in the face of evil. To the Lord we entrust all hearts that suffer and await the true peace that only he can give. Let us entrust ourselves to him and open our hearts to him! He is the only one who makes all things new (cf. Rev 21:5).

## **Help us shape Youth Ministry for the future**

We want all young people to flourish and to know that they are cherished by God and are a vital part of the Church. So, as an archdiocese, we are committed to explore how we can best accompany young people. Your voice is crucial.

What will happen: You'll meet others and have your chance to share your experiences and ideas about how the Church might best respond to the needs of young people today. All feedback will be carefully listened to as part of a diocesan-wide process planning youth ministry for the years ahead.

Who's invited: We want to hear from adults, young adults and 11–18-year-olds (Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult).

Come to ONE of our open meetings:

MONDAY 20TH APRIL 7- 9.30pm - St Joseph's Crow Orchard Rd, Wroughton, Wigan WN6 9PA

TUESDAY 21ST APRIL 7 - 9.30pm - St Monica's Fernhill Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 9GA

The process is being facilitated by Danny Curtin, who worked in youth ministry and youth work in the Church for many years.

For more information, contact Sarah McGeehan on [s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:s.mcgeehan@rcaol.org.uk) or 07415099048

## **Young Adult Pilgrimage to Assisi**

Young adults aged 18-35 are warmly reminded to secure their place on the Archdiocese of Liverpool's pilgrimage to Assisi, taking place from 29 November to 2 December 2026.

Organised in partnership with McCabe Travel, this special journey offers the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of St Francis during the 800th anniversary year. Pilgrims will visit key sites associated with St Francis and St Clare and learn more about the life of St Carlo Acutis. The cost of the trip includes flights, accommodation, transport, and all meals (except one dinner), with shared rooms provided.

A limited-time advance booking offer is currently available until Friday 17 April 2026. The first 15 people to book will pay £799 per person (£849 after this) with a reduced deposit of £200 (normally £500). For more information and booking please search: <https://archdioceseofliverpool.org/BookAssisi>  
You can also register for an online information evening at 7pm on Tuesday 7 April: <https://archdioceseofliverpool.org/MoreInfoAssisi>

## **Little Church**

Little church will return next Sunday 19th April.

**Second Sunday of Easter (A)**  
**Mass Times and Intentions**

<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	May Johnson
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	Eileen & Frank Duffy
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	Ann Davey
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	Edith & Jack Banks

**Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish who have asked for our help and support:**

*Michael Glennon*

**First Holy Communion:** Willow Ellis

